

2. File on Mirror Carp Culture in the Office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Inland, Central, Madras.
3. Report on the Fisheries of Madras for the years 1940-41 and 1941-42.
4. Administration Report of the Madras Fisheries Department for the years 1938-39 and 1939-40.

21.—NOTE ON THE FOOD OF TIGER SHARKS (*GALEO-CERDO SSP.*) OF THE MADRAS COASTS.

'All is grist to their mill': it seems their ravenous appetite incites them to snap at or swallow whole' all kinds of objects; they are said to bite dangling and protruding objects and seem to be easily attracted by white ones. This particular habit causes the attacks on human beings by these sharks. The presence of a stray shark in a pearl bed induces so much of fear in the minds of the pearl divers that they refuse to dive and sometimes the fishery itself comes to a sudden end. But these are all items which are not part of the diet of the Tiger Shark.

During the investigations on the shark fisheries of the Madras Presidency, a large number of specimens of Tiger Sharks (*Galeo-cerdo articus* and *G. rayneri*) were examined. The stomach contents included the following different kinds of food-fishes in the different areas: mackerel, seer, soles, silver-bellies, cat-fish, horse-mackerel, small sharks, skates and cuttle-fish on the Malabar and S. Kanara Coast; cat-fish, ribbon-fish and anchovies on the Vizagapatam Coast; and flying fish, hilsa, horse-mackerels, silver bellies, small sharks, small saw-fish in the Tanjore, Ramnad and Tinnevely Coasts.

Besides the above economically important food-fishes, turtles and sea-snakes have been common items in their diet. Sea-snakes have been observed in the stomach contents of Tiger Sharks captured on both the coasts.

It may not be out of place here to mention a few of the interesting objects which some of these sharks have swallowed. A non-gravid female *G. articus*, measuring 11 ft. in length, and caught off Tellicherry on 28th June 1943, had the head of a cow in its stomach. A 10 ft. male, caught off Pudimadakka in Vizagapatam Coast, on 12th January, 1944, had swallowed two biscuit tins. A male tiger shark, measuring 5 ft. in length and caught off Lawson's Bay on the same Coast on 11th January, 1944, had devoured a goat, and another male, 8 ft. long, had gulped in a bag containing 10 lbs. of raw rice!

WEST HILL,
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